



OMAHA CITY COUNCIL

Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
1819 Farnam Street - Suite LC-1
Omaha, NE 68183
Phone (402) 444-5520
Fax (402) 444-5263

Thomas Mulligan
President
Garry Gernandt
Vice President
Pete Festersen
Ben Gray
Chris Jerram
Jean Stothert
Franklin Thompson

For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 16, 2012

MEDIA RELEASE

A statement from the Omaha City Council:

When the Council made the collective decision to remove the Mayor from the bargaining process, we recognized the fact that there would likely be short term adverse financial consequences to the City. Our greater concern, however, was the financial implication of adopting contracts proposed by the Mayor which traded modest short term gains for potentially devastating long term costs in 2012 and beyond.

The City Council was not afforded the courtesy of access to the 2011 Preliminary Report or its underlying data before it was published to the media. Despite the suspiciously timed release, the cynical and blatantly political tactic of blaming the Council for budget shortfalls, and the fact that \$6.9 million of the shortfall was result of a judicial ruling not anticipated by the administration, we would like to focus instead on the fact that we are pleased with the progress of negotiations with all of our collective bargaining units. We continue to believe that we will succeed in negotiating collective bargaining agreements that are fair to City employees and Omaha's taxpayers. We have confidence that when those negotiations are complete, the citizens of Omaha will be pleased with the effort of the Council in achieving this goal.

For additional information, please contact

Councilmember Jean Stothert
Chair, City Council Labor Negotiations Committee
(402) 444-5528

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